

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are now pending. All claims are under examination. The Examiner is thanked for allowing claim 7.

Issues Under 35 USC § 102

The rejection in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the last Office Action of claims 1-6, 8 and 9 as anticipated by US Patent 6,190,805 (Takeuchi) is traversed but has been rendered moot by the present amendment to claim 1. All other claims, except for allowed claim 7, are dependent on claim 1 and are patentable because claim 1 is now patentable.

In the present invention, the pregel composition consists of only polymeric compounds or pre-polymers. That is, the pregel composition does not contain other components for an electrolyte composition.

On the other hand the Takeuchi composition is described as having a moisture content of 30 ppm as shown in Example 8. However, Takeuchi describes only the moisture content of the entire electrolyte composition. Takeuchi never describes a moisture content of a polymer compound (e.g., Compound 8) itself corresponding to the pregel composition of the present invention.

With respect to the moisture content, when a skilled artisan reads such a description concerning moisture content of the

electrolyte composition, he may perhaps understand the polymer in the composition has a low moisture content. However, he cannot understand the substantial moisture amount in the polymer. In addition, he cannot understand how to produce such a polymer even if the polymer has a moisture content of not more than 100 ppm. Takeuchi does not teach any way to reduce the moisture content of polymers.

For example, assuming that all the moisture in the electrolyte composition in Example 8 is derived from only the polymer, it is estimated that the moisture content of the polymer is about 129 ppm as follows:

$$[8.61(\text{g}) \times 30(\text{ppm}) \times 10^{-6} / 2.0(\text{g})] \times 10^6 = 129.15(\text{ppm})$$

At any event, the Takeuchi compositions are not suitable because they substantially fail to teach the pregel composition with a moisture content of not more than 100 ppm. Takeuchi neither discloses nor teaches the skilled artisan how to practice the present invention.

CONCLUSION

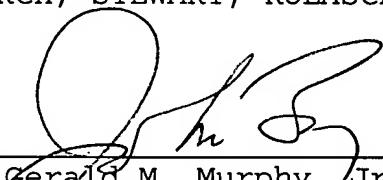
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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